

**Abstract 530**

**TITLE:** Effectiveness by Partner Type of an Intervention Promoting Barrier Protection to STD  
Clinic Patients

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**OBJECTIVES:** This presentation evaluates the effectiveness by partner type of a behavioral intervention designed to promote female and male condoms to women at risk of STDs.

**METHODS:** Intervention effectiveness was evaluated using a pretest-posttest design with 1159 female STD clinic patients. Data on barrier use by partner type during the preceding 30 days were collected prior to intervention and at monthly follow-up visits for 6 months. Sex partners were classified as either "regular" or "other" partners.

**RESULTS:** Before the intervention, condom use with other partners was much higher than with regular partners. Use of barrier protection with both regular and other partners increased significantly after the intervention and high use was maintained over the 6-month follow-up period. The mean proportion of protected acts among women with regular partners increased from 35% before the intervention to 76% one month after the intervention, then gradually declined to 66% by the sixth month of follow-up. Among women with other partners, the mean proportion of protected acts increased from 55% at baseline to 78% at both the first and sixth follow-up visits. Consistent condom use (100% of vaginal acts) among women with regular partners increased from 27% before the intervention to 56% at both the first and sixth follow-up visits. Among women with other partners, consistent condom use increased from 47% at baseline to 65% at the first follow-up visit, then increased to 71% by the sixth month of follow-up.

**CONCLUSIONS:** An intensive intervention that encourages women to use condoms with every partner every time they have sex can increase condom use with both regular and other partners. Average and consistent condom use reached higher levels with other partners but the relative increase in condom use was greater with regular partners.

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